

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BOB BRUNNER

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert E. Brunner of Illinois Tool Works in Elgin, Illinois, who recently was recognized by the Industrial Fasteners Institute with its first-ever Leadership Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the fastener industry.

As many in this House know, the fastener industry is a vital part of our economy and fasteners are a basic building block of manufacturing. Billions of fasteners are used annually in the U.S. in automobiles, airplanes, tanks, ships, bridges, heavy equipment, and virtually every other manufactured product. Thousands of Americans are employed in hundreds of fastener manufacturing facilities throughout the nation, including my own district in Illinois.

In 1999, the industry and many of its key customers, guided by the leadership of Bob Brunner, came together to support innovative, dynamic legislation governing the regulation of fastener quality, H.R. 1183 of the 106th Congress. This legislation, which became P.L. 106-34, is the culmination of nearly ten years of efforts to regulate fastener quality without unduly hampering the industry's efforts to remain competitive and innovative.

As the IFI noted in the proclamation announcing Mr. Brunner's honor, this award "honors outstanding contributions by an individual who has provided direction, vision, and focus toward the timely resolution of strategic issues challenging the mechanical fastener industry and the many markets it serves."

Bob Brunner's leadership excellence in marshalling industry resources to focus on this critical issues helped ensure a successful, comprehensive, inclusive resolution to the matter. The fastener industry, Illinois Tool Works, the State of Illinois and the Nation have benefited from his energy and enthusiasm. This award and the recognition of this House are richly deserved.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN OF TAIWAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, May 20th will mark President Chen Shui-bian's first anniversary in office. Since his election the voters in Taiwan have continually given President Chen high marks for his performance. President Chen has continued to maintain a proactive stance on Taiwan's economy. He has ensured steady economic growth while minimizing the impact of the worldwide economic slowdown. Furthermore, President Chen has been busy strengthening relations

with allies and gaining new friends around the world. He has made it very clear that Taiwan genuinely desires a meaningful dialogue with the People's Republic of China—a dialogue to ensure peace in the Taiwan Strait.

President Chen has made great strides to solidify Taiwan's relations with the U.S.—a relationship that subscribes to the principles of freedom, democracy, human rights, peace, and prosperity. Through his efforts, the future of bilateral relations between Taiwan and the United States is bright.

I send my personal congratulations to the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on this festive occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF WALLA WALLA, WA

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the City of Walla Walla, Washington, which recently received the 2001 Great American Main Street Award. Walla Walla is surrounded by onion fields and wineries within the 5th Congressional District in southeastern Washington State. Over the past several years, the city has improved itself, with such undertakings as the recent renovation of the historic Whitman Towers Building and the construction of the new airport terminal. However, no improvement is as evident as the revitalized downtown area.

The improvements to the downtown area could not have been made without the leadership of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation which was founded in 1984. Under the leadership of Executive Director Timothy Bishop, Mayor Jerry Cummins, and the Board of Directors, as well as the tireless and determined efforts of the numerous volunteers, the Foundation brought a declining downtown back to life. Because of their efforts, 125 businesses opened or expanded, 800 jobs were created and storefront vacancies were reduced to 4 percent. This hard work was recognized and rewarded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as it issued Walla Walla one of only five Great American Main Street Awards for 2001.

The City of Walla Walla has a prestigious history that is worthy of preservation for future generations to embrace, and because of this preservation, a vibrant future will be enjoyed. I am proud of Walla Walla and am honored to represent this community.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE THAT ANCESTORS AND LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF PAST OR PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SHALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING WHETHER A VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IS EXEMPT FROM TAX

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, together with a number of other colleagues, in introducing our bill to fix a current problem in the Internal Revenue Code regarding use of American Legion Post facilities by members and their families. That is, who qualifies as a "member" versus a guest, for purposes of unrelated business income and the exempt status of the Legion Posts. We do not believe Congress intended or contemplated that use of the facilities by families of the member would result in unrelated business income, or worse yet, the possibility of losing the Post's tax exemption under Section 501(c)(19).

By Congressional charter, only veterans who served during specifically designated wars may become "members" of the American Legion. Section 501(c)(19) requires only that 75% of the members be current or former members of the Armed Forces, and substantially all the other members are cadets, spouses, widows or widowers of past or present members. The IRS says substantially all is 90 percent. The Legion has many programs, such as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), as well as programs involving youth and family support groups. All are designed to further the purposes for which the exemption was granted.

The Post is a family gathering place for many social and patriotic activities. As a result, many family members of numerous generations attend these events. Some relatives are specifically treated as members, others are not. Also questions arise as to the status of the members in the SAL, as well as relatives not specifically covered in regulations, i.e. great grandparents, great grandchildren, etc., and whether they are perhaps "associate or social members, and if they count for the 90% test. The answers could determine the extent of unrelated business taxable income as well as exempt status. This is not an issue regarding true guests, i.e. unrelated individuals who are, and must be, accompanied by a member. Nor is any substantive change contemplated regarding the sale of life and health insurance to members as provided in Section 512(a)(4). That section would be amended to conform the definition to Congressional charter members and their dependents.

Our bill would eliminate these potential issues by providing that the definition of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.